



FACT SHEET

DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE OFFICE

PROJECT PROFILE

Local Democratic Reform (LDR)

JUNE 2010



Woman from A'zzoun voting for a community project

Project Overview

The Local Democratic Reform Program (LDR) works with the Ministry of Local Government to improve service delivery among partner municipalities and to build civic participation in government at the local level. LDR provides technical assistance to local municipalities and supports the management of community infrastructure and basic service programs that hold government accountable and provide a model for local decision-making. The program works primarily on small community projects that make a significant difference in the lives of the Palestinian people.

Goals

- Enhanced capacity of the Ministry of Local Government (MoLG).
- Strengthened capacity of partner Local Government Units (LGUs).
- Robust civic engagement and participation in partner municipalities.

Activities

LDR builds the capacity of partner LGUs to deliver and manage community infrastructure and basic services, with a focus on improving LGU capacity and leadership for the effective assessment and prioritization of needs; the adoption of transparent, democratic and accountable mechanisms; the implementation of strategic planning and the utilization of performance monitoring processes.

As part of its focus on service delivery, LDR supports the implementation of community development projects in partner LGUs, identified through a participatory planning process.

LDR also promotes civic participation in the delivery of services and public infrastructure. These activities engage youth in hands-on democratic practices through establishing Youth Shadow Local Councils as well as promoting systems for municipalities to engage in dialogue on good governance practices with their citizens.

In addition, LDR conducts institutional assessments, strategic development planning and key capacity building for the MoLG.

Successes

- Facilitated the selection and implementation of 85 prioritized community development projects by over 1,400 representatives of 41 communities; of these 85 projects, 55 have been completed.

CHALLENGES

- Unclear operating and legal environment for local governments.
- Inefficient, non-transparent municipalities.
- Lack of democratic tradition and practice in local governance.
- Local laws do not support decentralization, which is required for success.



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*Youth Shadow Local Council-led activity:
preparing roses to celebrate
Palestinian Mother's Day*

- Assisted the MoLG to finalize its five-year Local Government Inter-Sector Strategic Plan and complete an Institutional Assessment Report and Development Plan.
- Developed new organizational models for LGUs.
- Completed Local Government Public Procurement and Tendering Manual.
- Trained approximately 3,260 local government officials and their staff.
- Provided eight LGUs with financial accounting software.
- Initiated an ongoing Multi-step Strategic Development Framework process with 22 LGUs.
- Helped form 10 Youth Shadow Local Councils represented by 2,400 youth elected from across the West Bank.
- Trained 864 youth in leadership and local governance, with 66 youth participating in advanced media training courses.
- Assisted Youth Shadow Local Councils in implementing eight community initiatives, including children fun days, tree planting events and voluntary community clean-up days.

CONTACT INFO

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Project Detail

Implementing Partner: CHF International, Life of Project: 09/30/2005-09/30/2011, Total Estimated Cost: \$37 million.